



News Release

U.S. Representative Chris Chocola

Second District, Indiana

For Immediate Release
Friday, July 29, 2005
On the Web: <http://Chocola.house.gov>

Contact: Rob Vernon
Office: 202-225-3915

U.S. 31, Hoosier Heartland Receive Federal Boost in Highway Bill

Chocola's \$21 million will fund 10 projects in Second District

WASHINGTON, DC – After two years of debate and 11 extensions of current law, over \$20 million in targeted highway funding is on its way to the Second Congressional District in Indiana, with Indiana set to receive a 35% funding increase overall. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) and his House colleagues today approved a six-year, \$286.4 billion highway funding conference report – H.R. 3 – by a vote of 412-8. Critical federal funds for upgrades to U.S. 31 and continued work on the Hoosier Heartland Highway are included in the legislation.

“This highway bill is a victory for the Second District and the State of Indiana,” said Chocola. “This much needed funding will not only improve our infrastructure, but it will help create jobs and economic opportunity for Hoosier businesses.”

The projects included in the Highway Bill Conference Report for the Second District are:

- \$12 million for the upgrade of U.S. 31
- \$3 million for construction of the Hoosier Heartland project
- \$2 million for the Main Street underpass with Canadian National Railroad in Mishawaka
- \$750,000 for the Boston Street intersection with Route 2 in LaPorte
- \$750,000 for improvements to McClung Road, State Road 39, and Park Street in LaPorte
- \$500,000 for reconstruction of two railroad bridges in LaPorte County
- \$500,000 for the Hoham Road extension in Plymouth
- \$500,000 for improvements to Dixon Road and Markland Avenue in Kokomo
- \$836,000 for the TRANSPO South Bend bus operations center

Over the next five years, the bill will provide on average \$889 million per year in federal highway funds to Indiana – an increase of 35% over the previous highway bill, with a minimum, per-year funding level of \$660 million. That percentage increase is the seventh largest for any state in the country.

A recent U.S. Department of Transportation study concluded that for each \$1 billion of federal spending on highway construction nationwide, 47,500 jobs are generated annually. The same study also states that every dollar invested in the nation's highway system yields \$5.40 in economic benefits because of reduced delays, improved safety, and reduced vehicle-operating costs.

(continued)

South Bend

Logansport

LaPorte

Washington, DC

News Release
U.S. 31, Hoosier Heartland Receive Federal Boost in Highway Bill
Friday, July 29, 2005
Page Two

Additionally, traffic congestion currently costs American motorists \$63.2 billion a year in wasted time and fuel costs, with Americans spending 3.5 billion hours a year stuck in traffic.

“For Indiana, being the ‘crossroads of America’ is much more than just a motto,” said Chocola. “Trucks annually carry 591 million tons of products into, out of, or through Indiana. That volume is expected to increase 41 percent by the year 2020, to 836 million tons. Without quality roads, this revenue-generating traffic will simply find a better route. The agreement we passed today means new roads, more jobs, and continued economic expansion for Indiana.”

#